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RECOGNIZING THE 113th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

HON. LOUIS J. BARLETTA
OF PENNSYLVANIA

MR. SPEAKER, it is a great honor for me to join the brave men and women of Troop N, headquartered in my hometown of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, in recognizing the 113th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Created by an act of legislation signed into law by Governor Samuel Pennypacker on May 2, 1905, the Pennsylvania State Police was the first uniformed police organization of its kind in the country. During the Great Anthracite Strike of 1902, violence disrupted the peace and safety of seven counties, causing a nationwide coal shortage that forced President Teddy Roosevelt to intervene. In the aftermath of strike, it was decided that peace and order should be maintained by responsible officers employed by the public.

The State Police quickly became vital in Pennsylvania, controlling mob violence, patrolling farms, protecting wildlife, and tracking down criminals, and later served as a model for other police forces across the country. Originally limited to 228 men, the Pennsylvania State Police Department now includes nearly 5,000 sworn officers and 2,000 civilian members, and is dedicated to criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, and other public safety services across the Commonwealth.

These brave men and women put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our families and communities safe. This risk is not without sacrifice. Since its founding, 98 officers have died in the line of duty while serving the Pennsylvania State Police. Let us take a moment to honor them, and to thank them for their sacrifice to maintain the safety of our communities.

As we reflect on the past 113 years of this police force, and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in its service, I also want to thank the selfless and courageous officers who are currently serving. With National Police Week fast approaching, it is only right that we recognize all that our nation's law enforcement officers do to keep us safe. The protection they provide is something no one should take for granted, and I am forever grateful for their service.

MR. SPEAKER, please join me in recognizing the 113th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Police.

LOUIS J. BARLETTA
Member of Congress